



The Voter

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Serving the cities of Brea, Buena Park, Cypress, Fullerton, La Habra, La Palma, Placentia, Yorba Linda

Dear Leaguers:

School used to be the safest place to be when I was attending. All the way through college, we never gave a thought to being in danger. Not so much any more. Every week another outrage occurs at schools across the country. It's time to take action. There will be many demonstrations in March and April, and no matter what your affiliation, please take the stand of safety for our children.

On a happier note, here's what's happening:

Interviews were conducted with the staffs of Senator Josh Newman and Sharon Quirk-Silva. The young people working for democracy are knowledgeable, articulate, and they give us hope for the future. Kudos to Mary Fuhrman who arranged the meetings. A full report will be in a future issue.

Read With League met at my home on Tuesday, February 20 to discuss **Killers of the Flower Moon**. The book highlights injustices done to our native population over oil rights. I was informed about a piece of history I had no knowledge of.

Lunch With League on Thursday, February 22, featured Judge Hernandez whose court works with human trafficking. A difficult subject, but Judge Hernandez's talk raised our awareness. After lunch the Education and Civil Discourse Committee met, chaired by Jan Wagner.

In March RWL will read **Rude Democracy** by Susan Herbst. Come and join in on a very lively discussion to be held at the home of Lucina Moses.

March LWL will feature Sharon Ellis of Habitat for Humanity. The organization builds houses for low income families. Housing recipients are required to participate in the building of the home. Lots of cities have been involved in their home building projects, which are very well received.

Please be sure to read **The Voter** for the latest news about NOC and check the website for an up to date calendar of events. Remember all meetings are open and transparent, and you may attend any that you choose.

At the April Lunch with League we will discuss the Pros and Cons of the current ballot issues.

June 28th is the start of LWVUS National Convention. Many of our members will be attending. They will give us a full report upon their return.

Save the date of September 15, 2018, for our annual Kickoff luncheon. This is our only fundraiser for the year. It will feature our wonderful Silent Auction. Jennifer Trafford and Jan Urban are heading up the event. Contact them if you are interested in helping or soliciting donations. Kickoff is the time to bring in new members. Let your family, friends, and neighbors know what a dynamic organization they can sign up for.

It's chilly, but spring is on the way.

Frann Shermet, President



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School Children at Risk

by Jan Wagner

All League members are horrified and deeply saddened by the tragedy of another mass shooting in one of our communities. The senseless loss of so many innocent people, the broken lives of so many families left behind leave us searching for reasons and solutions that have eluded our country for years. And while we search, the carnage continues in another place and another time. This time, once again, it was a school and many of the victims were children.

One of the main reasons the suffragettes marched, and the League of Women Voters came into being, was to give women the right to ensure the safety and well being of their children. Almost one hundred years later, the details and the threats are very different, but women and families clearly are feeling that their children are **not** safe.

The League of Women Voters adopted a position in favor of limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of assault weapons in 1990. The position in brief reads:

The League of Women Voters believes that the proliferation of handguns and semi-automatic assault weapons in the United States is a major health and safety threat to its citizens. The League supports strong federal measures to limit the accessibility and regulate the ownership of these weapons by private citizens. The League supports regulating firearms for consumer safety.

The League at all levels – national, state and local – joins organizations all across our country in strongly supporting our students. Here is a list of opportunities for you to raise your voice. As others arise or more details are available, we will email you and post them on our website, www.lwvnoc.org. Take advantage of all of them if you are inclined, but **please do something**.

March 14: School Walkout Day

Join the California PTA and LWV and “Call Out” your federal legislators on March 14 to demand stronger gun-violence prevention legislation, including:

- Prohibit the sale and possession of assault weapons, including automatic and semi-automatic weapons
- Mandatory background checks
- Waiting periods for all firearm purchases

If your school will agree, pre-register students to vote

March 24 Great American Write-in 9:30-1:30

Delhi Center, 505 E. Central Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92707

Influence policy decisions by writing letters to legislators at this event.

March for Our Lives 1:30

Orange County March leaves the Delhi Center after the Great American Write-in

April 20 Columbine Anniversary/Student Walkout

Watch your email or check www.lwvnoc.org for additional information.

March

7 Wednesday 10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Executive Board Meeting	At the home of Frann Shermet
13 Tuesday 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm	Read with League	Rude Democracy: Civility and Incivility in American Politics by Susan Herbst. Susan Herbst explores the ways we discuss public policy, how we treat each other, and how we can create a more civil national culture. Reviewer is Lucina Moses. For more information please contact Penny Brown at (714)828-4667 or at LibraryPRB@aol.com .
14 Wednesday 10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Board Meeting	At the Fullerton Joint Union School District Office, located at 1440 W. Bastanchury Road, in Fullerton. Everyone welcome.
22 Thursday 1:00 pm	Lunch with League	At the Coyote Hills Golf Course, located at 1051 West Bastanchury Road in Fullerton. Our guest speaker is Sharon Ellis, President and CEO of Habitat for Humanity of Orange County. The cost is \$20 per person for lunch. For more information see the Lunch with League column in this newsletter. To make a reservation just email to lunchwithleague@lwvnoc.org or call (714)254-7440.

LWVUS President Deplores Pres. Trump's Crude and Bigoted Slurs

*At a bipartisan meeting with Congressional and cabinet leaders held on January 11, President Donald Trump referred to countries in Africa and the country of Haiti as "sh*thole countries." Here is the reaction of Chris Carson, the LWVUS president.*

We are appalled and disgusted by President Trump's racist statement made during a bipartisan meeting about immigration yesterday. Language and ideals like this have no place in our society, and certainly not in our White House.

This administration has done little but implement policies that endorse discrimination against immigrants and communities of color. As a country of immigrants, we are made stronger by our diversity, and that we have crude and bigoted slurs emerging from the Oval Office is shameful.

This, now denied, comment from President Trump occurred during a meeting around a bipartisan compromise to extend protections on the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA); a policy the administration called for an end to last year. The League of Women Voters urges our leaders to pass a clean DREAM Act to protect, not turn away, the 800,000 young people who were brought to the United States as children. We support the Dreamers, who are Americans in everything but the name.

We can and we must do better to be vigilant about speaking out against racism. We must stand up as a nation and say this is unacceptable.

Stand with the League of Women Voters and contact your Senators and Representatives. **[Take action now.](#)**

Lunch With League by Marge Imbler

With Spring all around us, join your fellow League members for our monthly Lunch with League on Thursday, March 22 at 11:00 for socializing and lunch and speaker starting at 11:30. All this takes place at the Coyote Hills Golf Course, located at 1440 E Bastanchury Rd. in Fullerton 92831. The cost is \$20.00 per person.

Our featured speaker this month is Sharon Ellis, President/CEO of Habitat for Humanity of Orange County. Sharon joined Habitat for Humanity in November, 2005. In her role, Sharon is responsible for directing the activities of a staff of employees, and thousands of volunteers, as they work to help limited-income families build and purchase decent affordable homes in Orange County. Staff and volunteers also assist with a quickly expanding repair program focused on low-income homeowners. She is also responsible for the two Habitat ReStore operations located in Anaheim and Santa Ana.



Sharon Ellis, President/CEO of Habitat for Humanity of Orange County

Sharon holds a B.S. in Education from Drexel University in Philadelphia, PA; a Master's Degree in Education Administration from U.S. International University in San Diego; and a Second Tier Administrative Credential from Cal State University, Fullerton.

Sharon community involvement includes service as a member of the CA. Forward Housing Action Team; past president of the Southern California Affiliates Association (SCAA); and a member of the U.S. Council Advocacy Committee for Habitat for Humanity International. She also serves as a trustee for the 501(C) Agencies Trust and as Chair of Habitat for Humanity CA. representing 43 affiliates.

Sharon has lived in Orange County for over 40 years, and currently resides in Irvine. She has four daughters, ten grandchildren, and loves to travel.

Reservations: Email us at lunchwithleague@lwvnoc.org prior to 10:00 AM on Tuesday, March 20th. For more information, please check our website, www.lwvnoc.org or call us at 714-254-7440.

Guidelines:

- 1) Los Coyotes requires our reservation count by 10:00 AM on the Tuesday before the luncheon.
- 2) No reservation or cancellation can be accepted after the above time.
- 3) Any mail-in reservation must be accepted by the Monday before the lunch.
- 4) A reservation made is a reservation paid. This includes late cancellations.



June 2018 ballot measures

by Helen L. Hutchison, President, LWVC

The LWVC board took final positions on the measures scheduled for the June ballot. We'll have a **The League Recommends** (a.k.a. Vote With the League) by early April. Meanwhile, here's a quick summary of the League position on each measure:



Greenhouse Gas Reduction Reserve Fund (ACA 1)

This measure would add a requirement that two thirds of legislators approve the first appropriation of any money collected from the sale by CARB of Cap-and-Trade allowances. At a time that we need efficient and effective investments in climate change solutions, this requirement could lead to deadlocks, inefficiency, and poor decisions. **The LWVC opposes this measure.**

Motor Vehicle Fees and Taxes (ACA 5)

If passed, this measure would raise excise taxes on gasoline and diesel fuel, provide for regular increases to those taxes based on inflation, establish a new fee on zero-emission vehicles, and raise vehicle registration fees. The new revenue from these taxes would be used for transportation-related purposes -- repairing streets and bridges, addressing deferred maintenance on highways and local roads, improving public transit, and investing in needed transportation infrastructure to benefit all Californians. The League supports measures to ensure adequate revenue to support needed services, including safe roads and good public transportation. **The LWVC supports this measure.**

Effective Date of Initiatives (ACA 17)

Currently, an initiative that is approved takes effect the day after the election unless the measure provides otherwise. Election results are not officially certified until five weeks after the election. While most election results are clear shortly after election day, that is not always the case. Prop cc would provide that an initiative would take effect 5 days after the Secretary of State certifies the election results. This is a common-sense measure, ensuring clarity about what is – and is not – California law. **The LWVC supports this measure.**

California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act (SB 5)

This measure would authorize California to issue general obligation bonds, with the money used to finance state and local parks, water conservation measures, water reliability to disadvantaged communities, and flood protection projects. California parks provide open space and recreation, improving health and community well-being. The water projects funded by this bond are forward thinking, and are a key part of our state response to climate change. **The LWVC supports this measure.**

How does the League make ballot measure endorsements?

We only take positions on ballot measures based on current policy [positions](#) and [League principles](#). Positions are developed based on grassroots member [study and consensus](#).

Volunteer with the League at the Great American Write-In!

by Becky Newman

Come to the Great American Write-In in Santa Ana on Saturday March 24, 2018, and support the League - and the **The California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act** of which the League of Women Voters of California is a sponsor.

The Orange County League of Women Voters (ILO) will be there:

- Registering voters;
- Providing attendees with personalized lists of their elected officials and their contact information; and
- Collecting signatures for “Our Schools & Communities First,” the initiative campaign for the California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2018, an initiative petition which will restore over \$11 billion per year to California’s schools, community colleges, health clinics, and other vital local services by closing the corporate tax loophole.
- And, always, sharing our enthusiasm for the League and offering League literature and membership brochures.

The Write-In opens at 9:30 a.m. and ends at 1:30 p.m. and will be held where it has been for many years, the Delhi Center, 505 E Central Ave, Santa Ana, CA 92707. Volunteers are needed for two hour shifts between 8:30 and 2. We will provide training and information. If you can help people locate their elected officials, you will need a computer or cell phone. We will have a wireless hotspot. Last year we were really busy - our personalized voter lists were especially popular - so the more volunteers we have, the more we will be able to do.

To volunteer, contact: Becky and Riley Newman, 949-786-1669, beckynewman2222@gmail.com



Read With League by Penny Brown

At our February meeting, RWL read and discussed **Killers of the Flower Moon; the Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI** by David Grann. For those of you who have not read it, we encourage you to get a copy and do so. It provides disturbing insight into the treatment of Native American Indians by our government and its agents. It certainly provoked a lively discussion!

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 13th, at 1:00 pm. We will be reading and discussing **Rude Democracy: Civility and Incivility in American Politics** by Susan Herbst. Herbst explores the ways we discuss public policy, how we treat each other as we do, and how we can create a more civil national culture. In these days of more uncivil than civil discourse, we hope to gain some insights and tips for future conversations.

Lucina Moses will be leading the discussion, and Marguerite Lyon will be hosting us. As always, we welcome new members. If you would like more information about Read With League, contact Penny Brown 714-828-4668 or LibraryPRB@aol.com.

Board of Supervisors Report, Jan. 23 and Feb. 6 by Wanda Shaffer, ILO

****The BOS held another long discussion on the inability of the OC Sheriff Dept. and the OC Fire Authority to mediate an agreement as to who responds to a Helicopter Rescue call. Both the Sheriff and the OCFA Chief testified that it was difficult to find common ground and suggested a mediator. The BOS stated displeasure that after 40 meetings of discussion without reaching an agreement, they were worried someone could be seriously hurt because of their lack of action. A 5-0 decision recommended the county ask the Governor's Office of Emergency Services to step in and help solve this quandary. Stay tuned.**

****A resolution dissolved the existing Commission to End Homelessness and established a newly structured Commission to End Homelessness with new bylaws. Homeless czar Susan Price formed this new Commission.**

****The Year Round Emergency Shelter at 1000 N. Kraemer Place, in Anaheim will have a Community Advisory Board and a Director of Care Coordination. There will be 100 more beds by May. Also if needed, after a 90 day stay, a continuation will be approved.**

****The Second Quarter Budget Report states that the entire county bankruptcy is paid off AND the pool debt has been paid off!**

****Much discussion time was given to the use of 16,000 mailed advertisements inviting district constituents to private homes as meetings sites for Supervisor Steel. ("Coffees" with discussion, and a time to meet together, etc.). Supervisor Spitzer stated that govt. codes prohibit use of public funds for such mailings. After lengthy and testy comments back and forth between Supervisor Spitzer and Chair Do, Supervisors Bartlett and Nelson suggested that more care be taken to ask for County Counsel's opinion, that meetings are not to be held in private homes, and that it should be an important "must attend district or county event." State law allows no such mailings after April 6 before a June Primary.**

**** The public may now address the Board three separate times for three minutes each time. (2 minutes if 5 or more wish to speak on same subject.) This was a unanimous decision by the BOS, and a better public opportunity.**

The 23rd Annual Report on the Conditions of Children in Orange County by Wanda Shaffer, ILO

The newest copy has arrived! This is a thorough and comprehensive look at how our children in OC are progressing or losing out. The research and documentation is conducted every year in OC and publicly shared. All of the information is discussed and shown on maps with details of INDIVIDUAL OC CITIES. This allows for a great comparing of concerns throughout the county and then in individual cities.

Areas of concern include such facts as the hospitalization rate for serious mental illness and substance abuse increased 32% since 2008. The percent of children living in poverty is increasing faster in OC than in CA.!

The 76 pg. report is divided into 4 sections:

1. Good Health Indicators, such as access to care and early prenatal care.
2. Economic Wellbeing, such as childhood poverty and housing.
3. Educational Achievement, such as 3rd Grade Mathematics, Arts, and English Language.
4. Safe Homes and Communities such as substantial child abuse, street gangs, and juvenile arrests.

125 pages of extensive supplemental tables also are available.

Unfortunately, the OC Board of Supervisors decided to limit the hard copy publications this year. Therefore you will have to go online to get any this fabulous source. <http://ochealthinfo.com/phs/about/family/occp/report>

Make It Fair California: Just the Facts LWVC

The League's Make it Fair campaign will soon be collecting signatures to put an initiative on the November ballot. Our initiative has been titled The California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2018.



To protect our schools, healthcare, and neighborhood services from the devastating cuts, we must raise revenue we can rely on in California. The best way we can generate local revenue is by reforming the commercial side Prop. 13 to make corporations pay their fair share of property taxes. Prop. 13 was passed in 1978 as a way to protect homeowners. Most people don't know that it also applies to commercial properties and actually benefits corporations the most. Disneyland pays just 5 cents per square foot in property taxes; that's 8 times less than the average California homeowner. Chevron alone saves hundreds of millions of dollars every year from Prop. 13; this money should be funding our schools and public services.

Our reform will maintain protections for homeowners, renters, and agricultural land. This reform will generate \$9 billion in *local* revenue to fund the things we care about, while maintaining protections for homeowners, renters, and agricultural land. In Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, this will restore over \$600 million annually to fund our schools, roads, parks, public safety, and other vital services. This money stays in local counties, it will not go to the state General Fund

When corporations get huge tax breaks, the rest of us pay more. The local tax burden has shifted onto working people in the form of parcel taxes, bond measures, sales taxes and special fees. It's time to stop nickel and dime-ing working people and start having corporations pay their fair share. The current system of commercial property taxes is fundamentally anti-competitive; this reform will create a fairer business climate by leveling the playing field. Assessments vary dramatically between similar properties purely based on the year they were purchased. This creates a competitive disadvantage for newer businesses who are paying property taxes at fair market value.

We are currently penalizing new businesses by making them subsidize their established competitors' property tax, which does not foster new businesses or entrepreneurship. Virtually every other place in the country regularly reassesses commercial property taxes. Most states tax their commercial property at a higher rate than residential property, not the other way around. Texas taxes their commercial property at 2.5%, versus our 1% rate in California.

This reform will reduce our dependence on temporary, volatile, and regressive revenue measures. We cannot continue to rely on volatile sales and income tax revenues or continue to pass temporary bond measures and special fees year after year. These revenue sources are unstable and fall disproportionately on working people. Commercial property taxes are a fair and stable revenue source for schools and public services

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**LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS of NORTH ORANGE COUNTY
 Membership Form 2017 - 2018**

Name(s) of Member(s) _____
 Address _____
 City _____ Zip Code _____
 Phone _____ Cell _____ E-mail _____

Individual member	\$65.00	Renewal ___	New member ___	\$ _____		
Additional household member	\$32.50	Renewal ___	New member ___	\$ _____		
Student member	\$32.50	Renewal ___	New member ___	\$ _____		
Additional donation to League (To cover our operating expenses, etc.):						
	\$25	\$50	\$75	\$100	other	\$ _____
Donation to Educational Fund (Separate tax-deductible donation):						
	\$25	\$50	\$75	\$100	other	\$ _____
Total enclosed (Make checks payable to LWVNOC.) Thank you.					\$ _____	

How can you serve the League? How can the League serve you?

Please complete this member survey. Circle your choices or fill in the blanks.

Our areas of emphasis this year are: **Voting Issues, Civic Engagement, Education, and Housing and Homelessness.**

I am interested in working on: _____

I would also be willing to work on special events and other League projects. Yes No

I have special skills (for example: graphic art, computers): _____

I am currently: Working ___ Retired ___ My job/profession: _____

I prefer to attend League events: During the day In the evening Weekdays Weekends

Suggestion for an activity or speaker: _____

I wish to support the work of the League by renewing my membership or by making a donation, but I am currently unable to participate in League events. Yes No

Comments: _____

Please send this completed form with your check to LWVNOC, P.O. Box 3073, Fullerton, CA 92834

For Treasurer's Use Only: Check # _____ Amount \$ _____ Date: _____



League of Women Voters

P. O. Box 3073

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